

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An input device comprising:
2 a housing having:
3 a bottom case; and
4 an upper member disposed above the bottom case, the upper member
5 including a palm rest configured to support a user's palm and at least one key plate extending
6 continuously from the palm rest to form a hinge between the at least one key plate and the
7 palm rest without a gap, the at least one key plate being movable in bending relative to the
8 palm rest at the hinge to activate a key switch.

1 2. The input device of claim 1 wherein the hinge comprises a hinge recess
2 which is smaller in thickness than the palm rest.

1 3. The input device of claim 2 wherein the hinge recess is smaller in
2 thickness than the at least one key plate.

1 4. The input device of claim 3 wherein the hinge recess decreases in
2 thickness gradually from the palm rest and from the at least one key plate, reaching a
3 minimum thickness at an intermediate location between the palm rest and at least one key
4 plate.

1 5. The input device of claim 2 wherein the at least one key plate
2 comprises a left key plate and a right key plate extending forward from the palm rest, wherein
3 the left hinge recess is angled forward and outward to the left from a central region of the
4 upper member, and wherein the right hinge recess is angled forward and outward to the right
5 from the central region of the upper member.

1 6. The input device of claim 1 wherein the at least one key plate
2 comprises a left key plate and a right key plate which are spaced from one another by a
3 spacing, and further comprising an island disposed in the spacing and connected between the
4 left key plate and the right key plate.

1 7. The input device of claim 6 wherein the island includes at least one
2 opening through which at least one user-manipulable object protrudes from an interior of the
3 housing to be operable by a user's finger.

1 8. The input device of claim 7 wherein the at least one user-manipulable
2 object comprises at least one of a button and a roller.

1 9. The input device of claim 1 wherein the upper member is coupled to a
2 top case which is connected to the bottom case, the upper member including beveled edges to
3 substantially conceal gaps between the upper member and the top case.

1 10. The input device of claim 1 wherein the bottom case includes an
2 alignment groove configured to be aligned with an alignment protrusion of a recharging
3 member.

1 11. An input device comprising:
2 a housing having:
3 a bottom case;
4 a top case connected to the bottom case, the top case including a left side grip
5 and a right side grip being formed on a single piece component, the left side grip and the right
6 side grip being configured to be held by a user's thumb on one side and by at least one of the
7 user's ring finger and little finger on another side; and
8 an upper member connected to the top case and including a palm rest
9 configured to support the user's palm.

1 12. The input device of claim 11 wherein the single piece component
2 includes a front connected between the left side grip and the right side grip.

1 13. The input device of claim 11 wherein at least one of the left side grip
2 and the right side grip has a concave surface.

1 14. The input device of claim 11 wherein a portion of the single piece
2 component has a hollow interior.

1 15. The input device of claim 14 wherein the single piece component
2 having the hollow interior is formed by gas assisted injection molding.

1 16. The input device of claim 11 wherein the single piece component has a
2 thick portion which is thicker than a thin portion, and wherein the thin portion comprises a
3 first material and wherein the thick portion comprises the first material and a second material.

1 17. The input device of claim 16 wherein the single piece component
2 having the thick portion and the thin portion is formed by dual material injection molding.

1 18. An input device comprising:
2 a housing having:
3 a bottom case;
4 a top case connected to the bottom case, the top case including a left side grip
5 and a right side grip, the left side grip and the right side grip being configured to be held by a
6 user's thumb on one side and by at least one of the user's ring finger and little finger on
7 another side; and
8 an upper member connected to the top case, the upper member including a
9 palm rest configured to support the user's palm and at least one key plate connected to the
10 palm rest by a hinge without a gap, the at least one key plate being movable in bending
11 relative to the palm rest at the hinge.

1 19. The input device of claim 18 wherein the left side grip and the right
2 side grip of the top case are formed on a single piece component.

1 20. The input device of claim 18 wherein the at least one key plate extends
2 continuously from the palm rest to form the hinge between the at least one key plate and the
3 palm rest without a gap.